Students ‘sick and tired’ of fake news

Jasmine McCormick  
Journal Staff

In a tragic repeat of last year’s events millions of college students returning to class Monday were confounded by mock stories published in student newspapers. Running the gamut from minor annoyance to righteous indignation students across the nation are responding to student publications’ feeble attempts at humor.

A student at Baylor University has begun a campaign to ban any further satirical reporting by Baylor’s Lariat.

Describing her organization as representing “a silent majority of students who are fed up with the confusion caused by student newspapers published during the first week of school,” our source Andricks has found that a number of her fellow students are consistently upset by phony news stories in their campus media around this time of year.

“Last year I missed two classes because the Lariat published a fake story about terrorist threats against the campus shuttle,” said Andricks as she scanned an issue of the Lariat. “Two years ago I held a protest and spent out of pocket on posters because the Lariat said that the Board of Regents had instituted segregation. Someone has to stop them from putting out these lies.”

Since starting the Baylor University Student Coalition to Prevent Dishonest Journalism (BUSCPDJ) last May Andricks has connected with many students with similar trauma.

With 35 members (or .003 percent of the student body) BUSCPDJ has not been a complete success, “oh God, before I even convened the first meeting I had friends asking me if I was retarded,” recalled Andricks. “They simply could not understand the pain of being duped by a news source I had once trusted.”

Andricks is adamant about pushing her group’s agenda until “every college newspaper is held to the high standards I want the Lariat held to” while at the same time advocating that would be humiliated from such material to “professionals like Ben Stiller.”

Suggesting that the federal government should limit humor licenses to such publications Andricks clearly has an axe to grind against her school’s publication which was named after the finishing move of famed Gaijin professional wrestler and legendary Texan, Stan Hansen.

Renowned as “The Unsinkable Battleship” in Japan he is the only man to have pinned pursuing legends Antonio Inoki and Giant Baba in singles title matches.

But Hansen’s legend does not end there, in a famed 1990 inter-promotional match against Big Van Vader of New Japan Pro Wrestling Hansen punched Vader in the face for real, resulting in Vader’s eye popping out of the socket and it was the sickest thing I’ve ever seen. I’ve got it on DVD and make a point of watching it before every trip I make to Texas or if I’m going to the Texas Roadhouse for dinner. Clearly the Lariat has earned the right to run a humor story every now and April with such an esteemed pedigree.

And if she thinks otherwise Andricks can take it up with Wikipedia (which means Unsinkable Battleship, according to Wikipedia). Other students, such as Appalachian State senior Keith Getchell, had less sand in their memory, “after that I sort of tired’ of fake news. eines of shock until one of my friends pointed out that it was an April Fool’s edition,” said Getchell, shivering as he dredged up the painful memory, “after that I sort of chuckled at some of it. I mean, it wasn’t ‘Zoolander’ but it was kind of funny.” Jennifer Schneider, Editor-in-chief of ASU’s student newspaper the Appalachian, responded to Getchell’s comments with a mixture of shock and horror, “The professor hand job story was absolutely true, it’s unfortunate that our publication date threw some students off but it actually happened.”

Reached for comment later in his apartment Getchell expressed disgust with this issue:

“No school supported publication should be running that smut,” before asking to be left alone for the evening. When pressed for comment Getchell revealed that his agenda for the evening included a “totally sweet” marathon of Battleship, according to Wikipedia.

The victim, Rod “Ramrod” Rammingdon, 100, of Roxbury was looking for grass around the Trenont Street area when he was fatally struck by a newly-purchased, elaborately painted Chevy Tahoe SUV, according to senior administration officials.

“It’s a car, it has four wheels, two axels, and some windows,” said a senior police official, “that’s all we know right now.”

Officials also detailed that the Ram was also shot in the head following impact, indicating that someone was clearly looking to end his life.

Some sources speculate that various parties might have had an interest in curbing his “randy, goat-like, rowdy ways.”

Ramrod’s death is far from surprising, many say, given his penchant for booby Beacon Hill soirees and massive crack addiction.

“That guy...he was always fucked up, making noise, disturbing the neighbors,” said his landlord, Jeff Langstrimp, of Longstocking LLP.

“One time we caught that doo with a escort from Craigslist on his lap smorting Meth off her chest. He was no good, that guy,” Lamstrimpf said.

While Beacon Hillers and some Administration officials are heralding the Ram’s death as an end of a “reign of terror” on the area, many students are saddened by the loss.

“Who am I going to slam cheap vodka with on Tuesday nights now?” asked a apprehensive freshman male.

“I’ve lost my best friend and all sense of focus,” Donations will be accepted in room D428.
Students feel effects of rising Dorchester crime

Ian Griffner

The rising homicide rate in Dorchester has been grabbing attention throughout Boston in recent months and is affecting college students, including those from Suffolk, that are either originally from or currently living there.

According to the Boston Police Department, homicides are up compared to the first three months of last year.

By April 1, 2006 there had been ten homicides in Boston, this year in the same time period there have been 16.

Adding to the interest in the murders in Dorchester is the shocking nature of many of the killings.

One such incident involved an 18-year-old man who was shot in the head in broad daylight on a crowded MBTA bus last week. Another was 22-year-old Chiara Levin, a resident of New York City, who was fatally wounded after a late night party in Dorchester.

The woman is believed to have been an innocent bystander and not the target of the shooting. Levin's death led directly to a controversial decision to return to Boston by the Guardian Angels, a volunteer vigilante group formed in New York to combat violent crime in 1979.

The recent homicides in Dorchester have caused many to speculate on the safety of its residents. Allie Smith, a junior originally from Connecticut, moved to a Dorchester apartment on Crescent Avenue in September. Now she is reconsidering her decision after the recent shootings.

"We're thinking of moving," said Smith, who claims a lack of available housing is keeping her in Dorchester.

Smith no longer feels safe outside her apartment, having heard of the increasing murders on the news, and now avoids staying outside in Dorchester.

"We feel like our area is right in the middle of it," said Smith. Smith now carpools with her roommates to travel through Dorchester and only remains outside to walk to her apartment from the T-station and back, as fast as possible. She also makes sure she contacts her friends when she is leaving or returning to her apartment.

"We don't stay out for any reason," said Smith. Residents of certain areas of Dorchester do not believe that they are in danger, however.

"People don't realize that Dorchester is one of the biggest areas in Boston," said Lauren Saliga, a senior from Marlboro, Mass. "There are good areas and bad." Saliga moved to the Savin Hill area of Dorchester around a year ago and though she admits that there are dangerous areas in Dorchester, does not find the reports of violence troublesome.

"It doesn't really bother me," said Saliga. Gustave Cadet, a junior, is similarly nonchalant about the rising homicide rate.

"Truthfully, it doesn't affect me," said Cadet, who lived in Dorchester with his family until he was six and returned a little over two years ago. "As with any bad news, eventually you become desensitized."

Cedt lives in what he feels most would consider to be a good area of Dorchester off of Morrissey Boulevard, and, like Saliga, has never felt in any danger in his neighborhood.

"Like anybody, I'm not happy about it," said Poles, adding the deaths of innocent bystanders was "messing up."

Living in Adam's Village, what he considers to be a safe area of Dorchester, Poles feels there is no reason to take precautions against the rising murder rate.

"I haven't changed my way of life at all," said Poles.

President announces new TV station plans for fall

Todd Olsson

Suffolk University's broadcast journalism students have produced four seasons of "Temple Street," a student-run original program, completely without the existence of a university-owned TV studio.

Last Tuesday, President David Sargent announced the lights, camera, and action will now be taking place in a brand new studio located in the 73 Tremont St. Building.

"The studio will be ready in the fall," confirms Dr. Robert Rosenthal, Chairman of the Communications and Journalism Department at Suffolk University.

"This is our first studio, and we actually plan on getting another, bigger studio."

The studio will be located to the left of the front entrance in the 73 Tremont St. building, which was formerly occupied by a small gift shop.

Large plate-glass windows allow pedestrians to see inside the studio, which Rosenthal believes resembles the set-up of the Fox 25 News studio located on the corner of Park St. and Beacon St.

"This is something we've needed," adds Rosenthal. "President Sargent has been supporting us for a long time."

Rosenthal also says that the new studio will host TV production classes as well as the continued shooting of "Temple Street."

Episodes of "Temple Street" spotlight Suffolk, featuring news, interview and entertainment segments.

Past interviews include Boston Globe contributor James Campbell, former Israeli Colonel Miri Eisen and Lisa Schatz, a Suffolk professor who was featured on Fox's "Trading Spouses."

"I think it's great not only because we can give students a studio they never had before," says Rosenthal, "but it's also great for the publicity of the university."

The larger studio Suffolk plans on adding is still in the planning stages. Rosenthal enthusiastically expects its completion in the upcoming years, possibly to also be located inside 73 Tremont St.
Suffolk moves ahead with dorm plans

The purchase of the property at 10 West St. has been approved by the Suffolk University Task Force. The official notification came to the Boston Redevelopment Agency on March 26 from the university stating its intent to purchase the building and convert the space into dorms. They also noted that the 10 West St. location is outside the previously agreed upon “non-expansion zone.”

Also according to Autler, “90% of the building is already converted into residential use.” This would make the proposed fall move in date a possibility. He also cites the fact that the property was purchased with community support, should make for speedy progression. “We heard enough of a green light [from the community], so we felt confident in moving forward with the review process.”

The Beacon Hill Times reported in its latest issue that the BRA received a letter on March 24 from the university stating their intent to purchase the building and convert the space into dorms. They also noted that the 10 West St. location is outside the previously agreed upon “non-expansion zone.”

For more facts and information about 10 West St. see page 9.

Colleen Kopernek

Spring Ball tickets available

Ben Paulin

Online users take up residency in online world

Everyone has fantasies of owning their own island, being a movie star, walking the catwalk of a fashion show, or becoming an owner of their own enterprise. With the virtual world of Second Life, member can become all of these things with just a few clicks of the mouse.

Second Life, created by San Francisco based Linden Labs is a virtual 3-D world, created and owned by users, called Residents. Since it’s inception in 2003 the world of Second Life has amassed over 5 million members.

What sets Second Life apart from other games, like the Sims, is its realism. “Anything you can do in real life you can do in Second Life; and anything you can’t do in real life you can do in Second Life,” said Jason Potteiger, a junior and occasional user of Second Life.

One member, who goes by the Second Life alias, Jacq Homewood, said he heard about the game from a friend. Homewood, 26, is from New York but said he attended UMass for four years. He said he spends about five hours a week in the virtual world.

Second Life is open source, which allows users, like Homewood, to make and create their own accessories, from shoes to houses, for their alter-egos. Potteiger said “if you own a character, you own the hat and you can sell it for real money.”

Residents can buy a plethora of items, ranging from simple items like clothing and furniture to tie-dye socks, using Linden Dollars, the in-game currency. Users convert American dollars to Linden Dollars, and vice-versa, using Second Life’s dollar exchange program, called LindeX. One U.S. dollar is worth about 269 Linden Dollars.

Potteiger cited an incident where a man bought a piece of property on Second Life for $12,000 saying “People are making a lot of money.”

“The biggest industries are land buying, sex, and sims” said Homewood A map of the virtual world, pinpoints events and happenings that all Residents can attend such as nightclubs, fashion shows, art galleries, and games.

Many residents with common interests create smaller communities and neighborhoods within Second Life. Homewood said he is part of several groups, including Atheists United. He said “I join a lot of groups to see what people talk about.”

Basic membership for Second Life is free. Once members subscribe they choose an Avatar, or an in-game persona. Members can talk to each other in chat rooms, go to parties, hang out in night clubs, join councils, shop, and play games.

As of April 3, 2007 28,940 users had a Second Life alias, and 1,626,207 people have given up their American dollars to make Linden Dollars.

For more facts and information about 10 West St. see page 9.

John S. Forrester

Provost Patricia Maguire Meservey

John S. Forrester

What students can’t do in real life they can do in Second Life, a virtual world that is shaped by the whims of its users.

First Provost that we’ve ever had,” he said. As Suffolk’s first Provost, Meservey said she feels the position helped link the various academic departments together with the administration to exchange ideas.

During her time at Suffolk, the Provost has helped establish Suffolk’s Center for Teaching Excellence and led a faculty initiative on behalf of Salem State.

Meservey has done “a great job” and he feels that if the Provost were to leave Suffolk she would be missed. “She’s been deeply involved in many of things on the academic side and she’s the first Provost that we’ve ever had,” he said.

Provost Patricia Maguire Meservey

John S. Forrester
It has become another way of securing votes as Newt Gingrich imagined, go after immigrants and "real" Americans will gleefully follow. Yet even against the backdrop of bilingual education, are tinged by the very "class warfare" conservatives are so quick to harp on when their views are questioned. If you want to raise the minimum wage, that's class warfare according to the Sean Hannity of the world. If you want to repeal Bush's tax cuts for the rich, how dare you, we thought liberals were anti-war! But if you want to spin wildly through tangles of words about welfare queens as the Gipper did or if you want to replace it with something new, the fact is, the Internet has lived less than a quarter century. In human terms, its public availability is still firmly in early adolescence. My generation, born in the mid to late 90's, has difficulty adjusting the youth of the World Wide Web with its hazy memories of almost every aspect of its society.

We have never lived in a world where we could see, hear, or even think about anything within seconds. So great and powerful is this new land, that virtual existence can talk to itself. Ethics is the constant gardener of such power. It ought to make us ask, have we lost our way towards the Internet? Can we start to resolve into a whole human being? These are painful questions. The glow of the screen has often been a crutch to me. It can look like a heady emotional analysis mixed with instant companionship, distraction, and reassurance. The lonely need only count their MySpace friends to temporarily return to togetherness. But the Internet is not the only way to make acquaintances. Occasionally you're doomed to the departures of distance and the passing of time. Ganes waste valuable hours in hibernation. Bright backlit backgrounds zone down to a ratio aspect of 800:600. I can't even sound like a hypocrite. I have done all of these things. There are friendships the remembrance of which are good, but when I think back on the places where new people met, I remember many faces glowing behind virtual plastic barriers. Have you ever carefully watched the features of someone as they speak? This poor, false, typing practice of tens says letters can't replace skin and muscles and a presence. When human relationships are often

Opinion
Teen Internet still growing

As I type this article, mushroom clouds of infrared Internet traipses are hanging past the visible range of human eyes. A hundred thousand buildings are being both occupied and worked on; works of information; realtime basketball scores from local high schools in every town in the country; fact boxes, orders to Chow; restaurants globewide, as well as statistics, facts, opinions, beliefs, realizations. The Internet has lived less than a quarter century. In human terms, its public availability is still firmly in early adolescence. My generation, born in the mid to late 90's, has difficulty adjusting the youth of the World Wide Web with its hazy memories of almost every aspect of its society.

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Support for troops legitimizes illegal war

S.O.U.L.S.' recent "troop drive" is an atonement to the quasi-fascism perpetrated in the culture of the U.S. mainstream, and is a disgusting legitimization on our campus of the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

It sustains the narrative of U.S. soldiers as the primary sufferers of illegal U.S. aggression and is, ultimately, a waste of time and resources for both Suffolk students and organizers. If action is to be taken for the benefit of a needy people, surely S.O.U.L.S. could find a more unfortunate population than the tools of U.S. imperialism (like the Iraqi people) toward which to dedicate their efforts.

The notion of soldiers in the U.S. military as victims in this framework is particularly toxic, as it's through their efforts, collectively and individually, that the worst atrocities of U.S. violence are realized. The U.S. armed forces have a genocidal legacy and are the only military organization in history to use a nuclear device in any context (and against defenseless civilians nonetheless).

But in today's politically bifurcated culture, the men and women enlisted in the U.S. armed forces are either lauded as "defenders of freedom" or mourned as martyrs for empire.

Even for those who have acknowledged that the invasion and occupation of Iraq was/is done under false pretenses and with dubious justifications, the base component of the U.S. military, the romanticized grunt soldiers, remains beyond criticism. What about his or her actions? Is joining the U.S. military justified (or even excusable) given the hideous history of this organization and the extralegal way in which it parades itself today?

Defenses for the conduct of the U.S. military are myriad and amorphous as a result of the disparate contexts for which they attempt to redress. For example, when U.S. Marines killed Iraqi civilians in Haditha, Andrew Curley

Andrew Curley: The notion of soldiers in the U.S. military as victims in this framework is particularly toxic, as it's through their efforts, collectively and individually, that the worst atrocities of U.S. violence are realized. The U.S. armed forces have a genocidal legacy and are the only military organization in history to use a nuclear device in any context (and against defenseless civilians nonetheless). But in today's politically bifurcated culture, the men and women enlisted in the U.S. armed forces are either lauded as "defenders of freedom" or mourned as martyrs for empire.

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Defenses for the conduct of the U.S. military are myriad and amorphous as a result of the disparate contexts for which they attempt to redress. For example, when U.S. Marines killed Iraqi civilians in Haditha, it is claimed that the stress soldiers endure somehow justify their transgressions against innocent civilians. Those who make this claim, however, don't apply similar standards to the equally perturbed populations who commit malfeasance against the U.S. For example, no measurements are made of the possible mental stress the 9/11 hijackers may have suffered prior to flying planes into buildings. Exploring the reasoning for some of the hatred against the U.S. (and Western Culture in general) felt by people in the Global South seems unfathomable in mainstream culture. Maybe such a reflection would reveal too much about the U.S.'s perennial involvement in systems of oppression there. From the left, defense for U.S. soldiers is premised on the hackneyed narrative of these fighting men and women as poor working-class people with limited opportunities aside from military service. Their socio-economic circumstances are used as a form of apology for their actions. It is argued, therefore, that because the majority of the military (an all volunteer force) are from poor, underserved communities with little chance of personal frustration in their humble quests for personal betterment, their actions should be overlooked or mitigated and prosecution should be made only against those in positions of power who had casually sent them into conflict in the first place.

But this logic excuses the responsibility we all as human beings have for our actions. The basic U.S. soldier, when he or she enlists into the military is making an ethical/moral decision. They are sacrificing their personal judgment to be an enforcer of aggression in a third-world context. The history of the U.S. armed forces is not absent from them-there exists every opportunity to investigate the record/historical utility of the U.S. military. They either: a) choose not to investigate, b) allow themselves to be deluded through cheap, fair tale-like advertisements (e.g., "be all that you can be") or c) justify their service by flouting their lack of opportunities. Regardless of their reasoning two facts remain unchanged: 1) soldiers in the U.S. military are not forced to join this organization (there is no draft today) and 2) their actions put into direct mortal danger even more abused, underserved communities around the world.

Each time a U.S. soldier patrols through Iraqi neighborhoods with loaded, automatic weaponry, the lives of Iraqi men, women and children are endangered. The U.S. soldier deserves as much sympathy for their perilous condition as a police officer who patrols and subsequently abuses residents of urban, racially segregated ghettos. Therefore, an organization like S.O.U.L.S. should not attempt to lift the specter of criminals through an aggregation of cheap, disposable commodities (and some questionable items like tobacco-based products.)

With all the misery in the world (much of which is a direct consequence of Western imperialism) millions, young volunteers should dedicate their actions to causes of better caliber than a "troop drive." They should not serve the function as cheerleaders for mercenaries.
El-P's new album features visions of distopia

Ryan Peters
Journal Contributor

As terrorists, tsunamis, and Katrinas push the United States to the brink of annihilation, surprisingly few musicians seem prepared to acknowledge the imminent apocalypse. El-P, veteran Brooklyn rapper, producer, and owner of Definitive Jux Records, is not only willing to admit it: it's all the dude talks about.

El-P's debut, Fantastic Damage (2002) was dense, dirty, and stunning. The drums were distorted, the rapid-fire rhymes were relentless, and the themes were grim: the apocalypse, armies of abusive stepfathers, a dead Disney, etc.

Four years later, his sophomore effort I'll Sleep When You're Dead is denser, dirtier, and, miraculously, even more stunning. Like its predecessor, the album is restless and haunting.

The mainstays of El-P's production remain: hellish yelps and cackles are buried deep in the texture of minor notes, endless synths, and frenzied drumming. It still sounds apocalyptic. However, the overt humor of Fantastic Damage is gone - there are no "I'd rather be mouth-fucked by Nazis with AIDS" lyrics on this record. In its place is a newfound control over El-P's far-reaching lyric and production skills.

Though, as it wields his huge vision, El-P's abilities, El-P reached out to artists of other genres who could help him complete this dystopian opus. For example, the opener, entitled "Tasmanian Pain Coast," appropriately features prog-rockers The Mars Volta. They add an organic element to the track. El-P's production could be achieved on his own. The track functions as an excellent, paranoid overture to the rest of I'll Sleep When You're Dead.

Namesake reveals different side of Kumar

Erica Lawton
Journal Contributor

Spending 25 years in the lives of an American-Indian family struggling to bridge the gap between the traditional Indian culture of parents, Ashoke and Ashima and the American culture that their first-generation American children must identify with, "The Namesake" is primarily a story about coming to terms with one's identity. Based on Shyam Lahiri's bestselling novel of the same name, the film attempts to stay as close to the book as possible, sometimes wavering in awkward pacing and a jumpy narrative.

Beginning in India with an arranged marriage between Ashoke and Ashima, "The Namesake" follows the young couple to America-Indian family struggling to bridge the gap between the traditional Indian culture of parents, Ashoke and Ashima and the American culture that their first-generation American children must identify with, "The Namesake" is primarily a story about coming to terms with one's identity. Based on Shyam Lahiri's bestselling novel of the same name, the film attempts to stay as close to the book as possible, sometimes wavering in awkward pacing and a jumpy narrative.

Beginning in India with an arranged marriage between Ashoke and Ashima, "The Namesake" follows the young couple to America with their children, buy a house in the suburbs and sacrifice see the grey area. With an impressive performance, Penn grows on screen from a disinterested, smart aleck teen to a confused, but lovable young man.

Inspired by a near-death experience that prompted Ashoke to go abroad, transforming his life, the name Gogol evokes a deep sense of identity at any age. Easily the two best developed characters are mother and son, Ashima (played by played by Bollywood star Tabu's and Gogol (played by Kal Penn, best known for his role in "Harold and Kumar Go to Whitecastle"). The film focuses on the Impending apocalypse. El-P's sophomore album, I'll Sleep When You're Dead focuses on the Impending apocalypse.

I'll Sleep When You're Dead exists - for both El-P and rap music altogether - toward more cohesive albums and creative depths once thought unfathomable for the still-growing of hip-hop.

The only obvious fault to be found is the overabundance of guest stars. Throughout the album, the only musician to provide a coherent voice to the rest of the album is Definitive Jux Records' word-slinger and college kid favorite Aesop Rock. El-P usually faltish in caphocapo, here it serves as a fatal flaw, making the song largely unlistenable.

That having been said, the album is the appropriate next step in the evolution of a producer rapper years ahead of his peers. Sure his rhymes are often hard to decipher without lyric booklets and sure his beats are

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"Namesake" reveals different side of Kumar

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Beginning in India with an arranged marriage between Ashoke and Ashima, "The Namesake" follows the young couple to New York City where they have children, buy a house in the suburbs and sacrifice seeing their own families in order to provide opportunities for their son, Gogol, and daughter, Sonia. The story shifts its focus to Gogol as he grows up with resentment and betrayal from his parents and culture, which quickly abandons for a Yale education and a wealthy, blonde, girlfriend. Director Mira Nair artfully conveys the gap between cultures and generations. Where she best succeeds is in drawing out the universal themes of familial obligation and the search for identity at any age.

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Sopranos to end season with big bang

PJ. Decoteau
Journal Contributor

Tony Soprano, meet Pyeodor Dostoevsky. With existential crises so similar in nature, moral ambiguities so complex in depth, and a place in history seminal in moral ambiguities so complex in nature, moral ambiguities so complex in

PJ. Decoteau's philosophy).

because, were we all to live by the most reasonable code, our actions, and as a result, our lives, would be completely predictable. Nevertheless, these actions become exponentially immoral because we consciously knew what the reasonable and right actions are, and choose to do the wrong thing any way.

Tony Soprano very much represents this line of thought. Throughout the series, he seems to be the only character who is involved in the violence and immorality of the Mafia while at the same time continually questioning his own actions, a quality displayed in his frequent visits to his therapist, Dr. Melfi. In these sessions Tony expresses remorse and regret for his actions, and in doing so shows that he consciously chooses to perform them despite his knowing that they are wrong.

This may help to explain why Americans hold "The Sopranos" in such high regard. Tony is not a good man. On the contrary, the ambiguous moral ground on which he stands tends to lean away from what is normally considered to be "good," and while we may see him through sympathetic eyes, he unquestionably remains a criminal, a womanizer, and a frequent murderer. As a result, the questions that beg to be asked are numerous. Why do we love this criminal so much? Is it because he's simply performing these actions to provide for his family, or is it something deeper? What punishment, if any, would we have for Tony were we given the choice, and what does this say about us?

While most fans of the show would invariably choose a lenient punishment, it is clear that this will not be the case. David Chase, the creator and producer of the show, has said from the very beginning that "The Sopranos" is meant, ultimately, to be a tragedy, but our sympathy for this monstrous character may reflect a sympathy for our own misguided deeds.

We have all, at some point, done something that we consciously knew was wrong, and yet, just like Tony, we convinced ourselves through false reasoning that it was, given the circumstances, an exception. Whether it was stealing, fighting, lying, or cheating, we can relate to Tony because we still consider him to be a good guy forced to do bad things, and in this reflective reasoning we are also letting our own moral and ethical selves off the hook for the bad things that we've done.

Unfortunately, as is the case with all tragedies, Tony will not be let off the hook for his actions, and through his punishment Chase may be condemning us all.

Throughout the show's run one thing is clear: Tony feels the same way about his son, A.J., as he does about himself, because he sees that A.J. is exactly like him in almost every way.

Tony both loves and hates the boy, as a reflection of the way that he feels about himself, how we feel about Tony, and yes, how we feel about ourselves. The one thing separating the two is that A.J. is not a man, he has not yet had the time to do all of the bad things Tony has done, and ever since the very first episode it has been Tony's intention to keep him out of the immoral family business and, consequently, away from damnation, just as we would want to keep our own children from being punished for the lives we've led.

By the end of the first half of the sixth and final season, though, and despite Tony's intentions, A.J. has repeatedly, and with gradual success, tried to break into the nondid life of crime. Perhaps more importantly, despite his own regret for consciously murdering, among others, his best friends, coworkers, and even family members, Tony continues to steal, lie, cheat, and kill. The point is that, were Tony truly dedicated to saving, if not his own soul, than A.J.'s soul, he would leave his life of crime and take his family elsewhere.

This is why A.J. Soprano must die. Inevitably, the most tragic thing that could happen to Tony would not be his own death, but the death of his only son, who would, in a clear reference to the Bible (as the show has always displayed a clear Catholic thematic undertone), die for the sins of his father. With this punishment, Chase may be telling all of us that it is not enough to simply show remorse for the sins that we consciously perform, we must avoid them altogether.

While Dostoevsky may argue the necessity of conscious immorality to retain freedom, Chase seems to hold that our sympathy for this man, with all of his sins, and our sympathy for ourselves and all of our sins, calls for the most dire of consequences.

The final nine episodes of "The Sopranos" begin this Sunday, April 8, at 10 p.m.

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Voices of Suffolk

Q: What are you listening to?

"Fall Out Boy - Their new CD Infinity on High is great! I've been waiting forever for it to come out.

"Ramstein - It's great for workout music and just to rock out when I have some time alone."

"Gregory Douglass - I have been listening to a lot of indie artists lateley."

"Jon Young - His beats are good and the lyrics make me listen closely."

"Asobi Seksu - I've mainly been listening to this one song I heard in a movie trailer and it's so seriously good. Really."

Ashley Lojko
Senior

"Asobi Seksu - I've mainly been listening to this one song I heard in a movie trailer and it's so seriously good. Really."
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a student film festival

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Salem State courts Provost Meservey for president

PROVOST from page 3

scholarship conference. Before coming to the university - and prior entering the realm of academia - Meservey began her career as a nurse, working at hospitals throughout Massachusetts, according to a profile published on Northeastern University's website, where she worked from 1989 to 2004. Originally hired as a professor in the School of Nursing, there Meservey held the position of Vice Provost for Faculty and Budget at Northeastern University from 2001 to 2004. As she began teaching nursing, Meservey said she became interested in the administrative side of higher education which led to her current position today. "I think certainly the position of president in itself is very attractive and having the opportunity to guide an institution would be professionally challenging," Meservey said, "and I would anticipate rewarding. It's a strong institution that has a mission that is not dissimilar where it is looking to provide educational opportunities for a wide range of individuals." Given how recent Meservey's announce ment was, many questions remain - such as who would replace her as Provost and who at Suffolk would be in a position to succeed President Sargent if he were to retire. While Salem State is scanning the horizons for a new president, many on campus seem to feel Suffolk will be undergoing a similar process soon with the projected retirement of President Sargent in the near future. Previously President Sargent stated that he would remain president at least through the Centennial. Some around campus hypothesized that Meservey could possibly be a leading candidate for president of Suffolk if the position were vacated. When asked who would replace her if she left Suffolk, Meservey said "this is all new news, so we haven't gotten to the point of considering that." After visiting Salem State's campus, along with the other two candidates, for interviews later this month, Salem State's Presidential Search Committee will recon vene to make a decision, according to chair man of the committee, Richard Bane. Meservey said she anticipates a decision by late May.

10 West St.'s history

As Suffolk prepares 10 West St. for September occupancy, The Suffolk Journal has compiled a list of facts about the address:

- West Street has appeared on maps since 1775
- The corner of what is now Washington and West Streets was called "Ballard's Corner" since 1800
- The Lamb Tavern, built in 1745, stood on the west side of Washington St., just beyond the corner of West St., run by Co. Doty from 1760 to 1826, was evidently a popular resort of the country members of the Legislature.
- According to a letter from Abigail Adams to her husband John on Oct. 21, 1775: as occupied Boston in desperate state, Continental Ship came up the Charles, firing cannons on Boston, towards British troops.

Man uses Styrofoam cup to channel dead King

John S. Forrester
Journal Staff

Working in a newspaper everyday, one is exposed to a multitude of crazy, offbeat stories and ideas that usually never see the light of day. Among the various conspiracy theories and schizoid ramblings that have passed across my desk recently, one particular item stood out magnificently in the swirl of insanity. Wade Jones, a salesman from Belmont, N.C. has owned a Styrofoam cup once used by Elvis in a concert in Charlotte for over thirty years.

Over the decades, Jones felt that he developed a deep spiritual connection with "The King"; so much that he feels he can sense what Elvis would feel about contemporary issues. My interest perked, and I had to call.

Journal: How would Elvis feel about the Internet?

WJ: I think that would be a hard thing for Elvis to fathom. Complex dishes, technology didn't affect Elvis much.

WJ: I think he would be one of the older generations, kind of interested by the Internet but he wouldn't be a technology buff at all. He'd be more into technology in cars, or guns. You know, like lasers on guns or automatic rifles.

WJ: I think he would like it though because he could get feedback on what people think of him, not just like a review of a show or something... I just don't think he could
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APRIL 5, 2007

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“Ram Jam” brings excitement to campus

Daniel Ryan
Journal Staff

Suffolk held its own version of NBA All-Star weekend Wednesday, as the Ridgeway Gym held the Ram Jam, a celebration of basketball through a series of games and contests. The Ram Jam featured free pizza and soda, raffles, and lots of great prizes, from Celtics tickets to sweat sets from the bookstore.

The gym was rocking from the beginning, with music blaring as the participants warmed up. There was a good sized crowd at the gym, with plenty of participants and people in the stands to watch the Suffolk students show off their skills.

The basketball contests included Knockout, a three-Point Contest, a game of Hotshot, a Battle of the Sexes Challenge, a Slam Dunk Contest, and a Half Court shot contest to cap off the event.

The first event was Knockout. All of the participants lined up at the free throw line, and the first two people had a ball in their hands. If the second player hit his shot before the first, then the first player is eliminated. This continues until there was only one player standing.

The game required great shooting and speed, as well as a little bit of luck. It started off a little slow, as the players worked off the rust, but once the game got going it was intense. The winner, Matt Keough, a freshman, managed to hit his last few shots and knock out his last competitor without much effort. When asked about his strategy, he said he didn’t really have one, saying that “I just tried to make all my shots,” which was the reason he ended up winning the event.

The three-point contest and Hotshot followed. The three-point contest is pretty self-explanatory, and all of the shooters put on great performances, with winner sinking 13 baskets in one minute.

Jon Darden, a senior, competed in the three-point contest, and even though he wasn’t exactly sure of his basketball skills, he enjoyed himself, saying “I only made one basket, but that was the first time I shot a basketball in years. It was fun.”

Hotshot consists of a series of “X’s” marked all around the basket, from under the net all the way back to the half court line. Each “X” stood for a set number of points, and whoever got the most points in one minute won a Suffolk sweatshirt from the bookstore.

The most anticipated event of the evening had to be the Dunk Contest, with each student looking to challenge the Celtics’ Gerald Green for the title of Boston’s Best Dunker. The winner of this contest took home what was probably the most unique and desired prize of the night: a six foot long sub from the Beacon Hill Subway on Cambridge Street. With this culinary masterpiece on the line, all of the best moves were on display. Suffolk head basketball coach Adam Nelson and trainer Jeff Stone served as the judges for the contest. Each participant got three tries per round, and the scores from both rounds were added up.

There were plenty of great moves, such as two-handed throw downs and some one handed jams. Junior Tim Meho stole the show, throwing down a one-handed dunk after taking the ball off a bounce that he threw up past the top of the net.

To follow that up, he took a page out of the Houston Rocket’s Tracy McGrady’s book, throwing a pass to himself off of the backboard and throwing it down, Meho won the event, taking 45 points out of a possible 60.

The last event of the night had arguably the most valuable prize: two leg seats to Sunday’s Celtics game versus LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

This prize was worth well over $150, and to win it, one had to sink a shot from half court, a pretty daunting task. The game continued until someone finally made it. After going through the line one time, freshman Charlie Bosier switched his shot, and took home the tickets.

With Charlie’s amazing shot, the Ram Jam came to an end. It was just an adver­ tisement event full of music, prizes, food, and of course basketball. Even if one isn’t “basketball inclined.”

The event was a great night of entertain­ ment, and of course free food. Darden may not have fared too well in the contest, but he remained positive, saying “I got a free t-shirt out of it, free food and was able to catch up with a couple friends.”

Spring sports with a solid outing this past week

Eric Plazza
Journal Staff

Softball
The women’s softball team were very busy over the weekend. They played a total of six games, all in the GNAC conference. First, they hosted Norwich for an afternoon double header on March 29. After dropping the first game 5-4, the Lady Rams hurt themselves with five errors losing again 10-6.

Friday, March 30 the team traveled to Rivier where they would split a double header. They lost a close one in eight innings but rebounded nicely in game two winning 6-1.

On Sunday, April 1 Jess Ferreira showed the crowd at Puopolo Field (home of the Suffolk Softball Team) why she is the leader of this team. She pitched two gems against Emmanuel. She let up two runs in the first inning of game one, but got out of a jam with back to back strikeouts and finished with seven in the final game.

She set up two runs in the final inning of game two, but got out of a jam with back to back strikeouts and finished with seven in nine innings. As if her pitching performance was not enough she put the Rams on top for good in the second inning with a grand slam over the left field fence.

Then in the fifth she ripped a double into left center field gap scoring two that ended the game.

They finished the weekend at 5-0 in the GNAC at 3-3. The team is on the road this week with double headers at Wellesley and Emmanuel.

This Saturday, April 7 they’ll host Western New England for a double header starting at 12:00 p.m.

Men’s Tennis
The men’s tennis team was active last week with a home match on Thursday, March 29 versus Gordon and a road match Friday, March 30 at Western New England. They beat Gordon 6-3 with Pedro Soares leading the way. Suffolk dropped their first match Friday losing to Western New England 6-3. They are 3-1 overall and 1-1 in the GNAC so far this season.

This week they travel to Albertus Magnus Saturday, April 7 for a GNAC match.

Baseball
The men’s baseball team played five games last week. They won three and lost two. Most importantly, the three games they won were in the conference.

They post an overall record of 10-5 and are sitting in second place in the GNAC at 3-1. So far Greg DiMarco is leading the team in batting average at .516, Nick Martinho and Jesus King each have 13 runs batted in (RBIs) to lead the team.

This week they have three non-conference games. They will host Endicott on Wednesday, April 4 at Adams Field in Quincy at 3:30 p.m.